

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

During the year the general health of the Borough has been very good.

BIRTHS. There were 52 live births - 29 male and 23 female. This is above the average of the previous 5 years (48); and gives a birth-rate of 17.9 per 1,000. The live birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1948 was also 17.9 per 1,000 total population.

There were no stillbirths.

DEATHS. There were 32 deaths - 13 male and 19 female. This figure includes three infant deaths, and is considerably lower than the average for the past five years (49). This gives a death-rate of 11.0 per 1,000: the deaths-rate (all causes) in England and Wales in 1948 was 10.8 per 1,000 total population - this was a record low figure for the country.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease.....6	Cancer of Breast.....1
Heart Disease (Puerperal).....1	Cancer of Pancreas.....1
Apoplexy.....5	Cancer of Skin.....1
Senility.....4	Cancer of Thyroid.....1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....2	Bronchitis.....1
Cancer of Oesophagus.....3	Bronchopneumonia.....1
Cancer of Uterus.....1	Epilepsy.....1

Average age - 67 years.

INFANTS under 1 Year.

Prematurity.....1	Whooping Cough.....1
Tuberculous Meningitis.....1	

TUBERCULOSIS. 5 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

3 of pulmonary tuberculosis  
1 of tuberculous meningitis  
1 of tuberculous peritonitis.

VENEREAL DISEASE. No case is reported.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The following cases of infectious disease were notified:-

Whooping-Cough.....13
Measles.....3
Scarlet Fever.....1
Erysipelas.....1



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the period up to July 5th. the

following diphtheria inoculations were given:-

### Children under 5 years:

Primary inoculation (2 injections).....22

### Children aged 5-15:

Re-inoculation (1 injection).....15

No case of diphtheria was reported.

(Since July 5th. arrangements for diphtheria immunisation have been in the hands of the County Medical Officer).

## WATER SUPPLY.

The quality of the piped water is good. The water receives no treatment apart from filtration. Two bacteriological examinations were made during the year, which showed that it comes into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies. No lead was detected in the water.

There is an adequate quantity of water, but some of the mains are so encrusted that there is insufficient bore to carry the required amount at peak draw-off periods. Consequently there are parts of the town which have no water at all coming from the mains for many hours during the day. Plans of proposed improvements were submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval on 10th. September, 1948.

There is a piped water supply to all houses in the built-up area (population about 2,700). The outlying farms and cottages (population about 200) have their own wells.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No animals are slaughtered within the Borough for general consumption.

## FOOD POISONING.

There has been no out-break of food poisoning.



Medical Officer of Health.  
Borough of Great Torrington .

